

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PRS-01 INR-07 NSC-05

DODE-00 CIAE-00 DHA-02 IO-13 /055 W

-----271129Z 074594 /14

P 270634Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 382

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 8192

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE PRESS ON CLARK SECURITY DOG INCIDENT AND ON
US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

REF: (A) MANILA 8041 (EXDIS); B) MANILA 7939, C) MANILA 8115;
D) MANILA 8117; E) COMNAVBASE SUBIC 260851Z (NOTAL)

1. PHILIPPINE PRESS CONTINUEDMAY 27 TO GIVE PROMINENT
ATTENTION TO SECURITY DOG INCIDENT AT CLARK (REFS A AND B)
BUT COVERAGE WAS LESS EXTENSIVE THAN THAT REPORTED MAY 26
(REF C). THERE HAS BEEN NO REPEAT NO MEDIA PLAY TO DATE
ON DOG INCIDENTS AT SUBIC REPORTED IN REFS D AND
E BUT COVERAGE IS EXPECTED.

2. MAY 27 TIMES JOURNAL CARRIED FRONT PIECE ENTITLED "CLARK
GUARD IN DOG ATTACK FACES RAP". STORY DISCUSSES INVESTIGA-
TION BEING CONDUCTED BY LOCAL FISCAL, REHASHES THE
SCAVENGER'S VERSION OF INCIDENT AND SUGGESTS THAT A
FORMAL COMPLAINT AGAINST THE DOG HANDLER WILL BE MADE.

3. MORE INTERESTING TREATMENT APPEARS IN BULLETIN
TODAY, WHERE EDITORIAL PAGE ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO THE
DOG INCIDENT AND TO US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. ON LEFT SIDE
OF PAGE IS PIECE ENTITLED "ANOTHER DOG INCIDENT".
FULL TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE. WE HAVE BEEN
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WONDERING IF IT IS NECESSARY TO USE DOGS IN GOING AFTER
LONELY SCAVENGERS IN THE CLARK AIR BASE PERIMTER. SURELY,
IT IS ONLY AGAINST SUCH PEOPLE THAT TRAINED DOGS CAN BE
USEFUL. A DOG AND HIS ARMED ESCORT CANNOT BE USEFUL
AGAINST A BAND OF ARMED INTRUDERS; BOTH THE DOG AND HIS
COMPANION CAN BE SHOT DEAD BY PEOPLE WHO MEAN BUSINESS
INSIDE THE BASE.

AND COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT AN INCIDENT OF THIS KIND HAS HAPPENED. THE USE OF DOGS AGAINST POOR FILIPINOS, WHICH SEEMS TO BE A POLICY AT CLARK, DEMEANS THE FILIPINO IN HIS OWN COUNTRY.

WE DO NOT BLAME THE SOLDIER AND HIS DOG BUT THE HIGHER AUTHORITIES AT THE BASE WHO, IT APPEARS, ARE STILL INSENSITIVE TO THE FEELINGS OF MANY FILIPINOS ABOUT THE AMERICAN BASES. END QUOTE.

4. IN MIDDLE OF EDITORIAL PAGE, AT TOP, THERE IS A CARTOON CAPTIONED "BAD DOG". IT SHOWS A LARGE MASTIFF STANDING ON A PAW-TRACKED PLACARD READING "U.S. DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS". THE DOG IS LABELLED "CLARK AIR BASE DOG INCIDENT". FEATURED DIRECTLY BELOW THE CARTOON IS AN EDITORIAL BY APOLONIO BATALLA ENTITLED "HUMAN RIGHTS EMPHASIS IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY". FULL TEXT OF EDITORIAL IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE. THERE ARE MANY REFERENCES TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S MAJOR SPEECH AT NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY. IN THAT SPEECH, HE COMMITTED HIMSELF ONCE MORE TO HUMAN RIGHTS AS A MAJOR PLANK IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

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ACTION EA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 8192

HE SAID "OUR POLICY SHOULD REFLECT OUR PEOPLE'S BASIC COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS." IN ANCESTRY, RELIGION, COLOR, PLACE OF ORIGIN AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND, HE SAID, AMERICANS ARE AS DIVERSE A NATION AS THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN.

HE SAID NO COMMON MYSTIQUE OF BLOOD OR SOIL UNITES THEM AND WHAT DRAWS THEM TOGETHER, MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, IS A BELIEF IN HUMAN FREEDOM.

EVEN AS PRESIDENT CARTER STRESSES HUMAN RIGHTS AS A FUNDAMENTAL TENET OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, WE

THINK THAT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT COMMITMENT HE WILL HAVE TO RELY MORE ON MORAL SUASION.

"I HAVE NO ILLUSION THAT CHANGES WILL COME EASILY OR SOON," HE SAID, "I ALSO BELIEVE THAT IT IS A MISTAKE TO UNDERVALUE THE POWER OF WORDS AND OF THE IDEAS THAT WORDS EMBODY."

"IN THE LIFE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT," HE SAID, "WORDS ARE ACTION--MUCH MORE SO THAN MANY OF US MAY REALIZE WHO LIVE IN COUNTRIES WHERE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED."

WE DO NOT THINK NOW THAT MR. CARTER'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS CANNOT (CAN) BE THE BASIS FOR CUTTING OFF AID OR FOR ALLOWING DIFFERENCES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO BECOME UNBRIDGEABLE, BECAUSE THAT IS NOT THE WAY TO WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE.

LET US TAKE AS AN EXAMPLE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN
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THE US AND CHINA. AS WE ALL KNOW, HUMAN FREEDOM AS IT IS EXPERIENCED IN THE US IS LIMITED IN CHINA. MAYBE IF ONE DOES CAREFUL RESEARCH, HE MAY COME UP WITH VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

IN THE SPEECH, PRESIDENT CARTER SAID: "IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. WE SEE THE AMERICAN-CHINESE RELATIONSHIP AS A CENTRAL ELEMENT OF OUR GLOBAL POLICY, AND CHINA AS A KEY FORCE FOR GLOBAL PEACE. WE WISH TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH THE CREATIVE CHINESE PEOPLE ON THE PROBLEMS THAT CONFRONT ALL MANKIND."

OR WE CAN TAKE THE CASES OF SOME LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHERE THERE ARE REPORTED TO BE MANY CASES OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE US COULD CUT OFF OR REDUCE AID THROUGH THE MULTILATERAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS IF IT WERE TO IMPLEMENT THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IN A DRASTIC MANNER.

BUT IF THAT APPROACH WERE TAKEN, THE US WOULD LOSE A LOT OF FRIENDS IN LATIN AMERICAN, AND THE OBSESSION OF FIDEL CASTRO OF CUBA TO MAKE THE WHOLE OF LATIN AMERICA ANTI-US WOULD COME TRUE.

NEITHER CAN THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IF IMPLEMENTED IN A BLUNT WAY WORK IN REGARD TO PRIVATE AMERICAN INVESTORS. THE US GOVERNMENT CANNOT TELL AMERICAN INVESTORS TO AVOID OR DISINVEST IN COUNTRIES WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED.

WHILE ALL THIS CANNOT BE DONE, THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS CAN, INDEED, BE PROMOTED THROUGH "MORAL SUASION". IT CAN BE PROMOTED THROUGH THE MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS THE UN. IT CAN BE DONE BILATERALLY, BUT NEVER IN A WAY THAT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS AN IMPOSITION,

ESPECIALLY IF WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NATIONALISTIC SENTIMENTS OF THE EMERGING COUNTRIES.

THUS, IF THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS A FUNDAMENTAL TENET, IT IS TO BE GIVEN JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT
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OF STRESS AND PRIORITY. IT CANNOT BE THE STICK OF A WORLD POLICEMAN. IT CAN NONETHELESS BE THE INSTRUMENT OF WORLD LEADERSHIP. END QUOTE.

5. COMMENT. THE MEDIA PLAY ON THE CLARK DOG INCIDENT DOES REMAIN RELATIVELY MODERATE GIVEN THE NATURE OF ISSUE. HEAT MAY RISE WHEN NEWS OF SUBIC INCIDENT BECOMES MORE WIDELY KNOWN.
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Message Attributes

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